

atheist, agnostic, or otherwise, when confronted with the fact that he has in some way wronged his neighbor, will rightly respond in one universal way—knock on his door, confess to him, repent, and ask for forgiveness. The neighbor would then forgive them as Christ has taught us. True and simple as this may seem, it is important to ask why we as Americans naturally react in such a way. The answer of course is that in this “conditioned behavior” we see very clearly the positive effect that Christianity has had on the development of our country and culture.

There are few places in the United States—if any—that you can visit where the laws “do not steal” and “do not murder” do not apply. Likewise, there are few households in this great country in which moral character is developed in young children without the invocation of the ninth and tenth amendments regarding lying and coveting that which belongs to others.

Mr. Speaker, we as Americans live in a moral society and in a country that is governed by moral laws. While many of these laws obviously cannot be found in any explicit sense within the pages of the Holy Bible, when we survey the content of that book—the document that outlines how it is the Christians are to live their lives here on earth—we do find much in the way of foundational principles that has come to guide not just the development of our laws, but also the foundation of our nation.

It was from the Bible and the example of Jesus that Pilgrims first established government on this continent, from which the Founders outlined the political thought that shaped our nation, and by which Congress first intended to educate our children. Furthermore, as the scholar David Barton and others have tirelessly pointed out, it was from the Bible that early American leaders derived concepts like private ownership, the free-enterprise system, an industrious work ethic, and workfare rather than welfare. As a result, the life and teachings of Jesus Christ have permeated every aspect of life in America. He has shaped our culture and transformed every great leader to rise from our population. As a testament to this, each of our American Presidents has acknowledged God's hand on this Christian nation that is the United States. If there never had been a Jesus Christ, there would never have been an America.

In an address to the nation President Truman once said that, “In love, which is the very essence of the message of the Prince of Peace, the world would find a solution for all its ills. I do not believe there is one problem in this country or in the world today which could not be settled if approached through the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount. The poets' dream, the lesson of priest and patriarch and the prophets' vision of a new heaven and a new earth, all are summed up in the message delivered in the Judean hills beside the Sea of Galilee. Would that the world would accept that message in this time of its greatest need!”

He went on to say that, “This is a solemn hour. In the stillness of the Eve of the Nativity when the hopes of mankind hang on the peace that was offered to the world nineteen centuries ago, it is but natural, while we survey our destiny, that we give thought also to

our past—to some of the things which have gone into the making of our Nation.”

In 1940, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said of Christmas, “it is well for all humanity to remind itself that while this is in its name a Christian celebration, it is participated in reverently and happily by hundreds of millions of people who are members of other religions, or belong actively to no church at all. The reason is not far to seek. It is because the spirit of unselfish service personified by the life and the teachings of Christ makes appeal to the inner conscience and hope of every man and every woman in every part of the earth.”

President Eisenhower called the nation to reflect during his remarks at the lighting of the Nation's Christmas Tree on December, 15th 1967 when he said, “In a few days we shall all celebrate the birth of His Holiness on earth. We shall recreate in our minds, once more, the ancient coming of that Spirit who remains alive for millions in our time. We shall acknowledge the Kingdom of a Child in a world of men.”

He went on to say, “That Child—we should remember—grew into manhood Himself, preached and moved men in many walks of life, and died in agony. But His death—so the Christian faith tells us—was not the end. For Him, and for millions of men and women ever since, it marked a time of triumph—when the spirit of life triumphed over death. So—if this Christmas season in a time of war is to have real meaning to us, it must celebrate more than the birth of a Baby.”

During his Radio Address to the Nation on Christmas Eve, 1983 President Reagan pointed out that “It's been said that all the kings who ever reigned, that all the parliaments that ever sat have not done as much to advance the cause of peace on Earth and good will to men as the man from Galilee, Jesus of Nazareth.”

As the words of these great men—these revered and honored presidents of the United States of America have clearly demonstrated, it is not a stretch to say that the precepts and principles of Jesus have so completely permeated the culture of this nation that even an American atheist would be hard pressed to separate his worldview from the impact of the first Christmas.

Though we are not all Christians, Mr. Speaker, we are all Americans. By virtue of that simple fact, I will again reiterate my belief that it is not only appropriate but, more importantly, is necessary during this special time of year to remember not only the birth of Jesus Christ, the savior of the world, but also to recognize the important impact that the Christian faith has had on the foundation and development of our society, our nation, and our civilization.

RECOGNIZING ROOSEVELT PETRY,
JR.

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize Mr. Roosevelt Petry, Jr.,

President and CEO of GP Industrial Contractors, Inc.

He began his professional career as a draftsman for Bethlehem Steel, performing piping, mechanical, electrical, and structural drafting. He worked for fifteen years on electrical instrumentation, mechanical and pipe designing, residential, and commercial construction, and has been a senior designer, project engineer, project manager, and project superintendent. Each job garnered Mr. Petry the necessary skills for his company to secure massive projects such as the Toyota Center, Minute Maid Park, and other high profile projects around the country.

Mr. Petry received his bachelor's degree from Lamar University in 1997, and one year later, he founded GP Industrial Contractors. He partnered with an acquaintance who owned Gulf Copper Manufacturing Company to form a company specializing in building refineries and petrochemical plants. Piping, steel fabrication, carpentry, maintenance, and engineering, are just a few of the services his company offers.

Mr. Petry attributes all of his success to God, and doesn't think twice about giving back to the community. With a focus on youth education, he shared his knowledge as an instructor at Lamar University, teaching AutoCAD, surveying and drafting. He and his wife recently donated money to create an endowment scholarship at Lamar State College, for nursing and engineering students in Port Arthur. Currently, he hosts the Roosevelt Petry, Jr. Business Hour on KSAP 107.1—the Breeze, in Port Arthur, TX. After Hurricane Rita, Mr. Petry's GP Industrial Contractors were there to help the small gulf coast community of Sabine Pass pick up the pieces, assisting in rebuilding.

He has served the community as Commissioner of the Port Arthur Housing Authority; Chairman of the Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation; Member of the Port Arthur Citizen Advisory Committee; Member of the National Society of Black Engineers; Board of Directors for Junior Achievement; and Board of Directors for the United Way. He also serves on the Military Academy Selection Board for our Congressional District.

Over the years, Mr. Petry's hard work and community involvement have resulted in several honors and awards, including Score's 2007 Business Man of the Year Award; 2006 Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation's Business of the Year Award; 2004 Houston Minority Business Council's Emerging Ten Award; 2002 Lamar State College Port Arthur's Industrial Business of the Year Award; 2004 Make Ready, Inc. 4th Annual Humanitarian Award; and he was featured in the National Society of Black Engineers in 2000.

This Port Arthur native has shown that your environment and circumstances don't predict your future. Hard work and perseverance have been the lifeblood of Mr. Petry's success. Port Arthur's future is brighter because of Mr. Petry's continuing commitment and involvement in our community. Roosevelt Petry seizes the opportunities that come his way and has a positive attitude and zest for life.

And that's just the way it is.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today we award a Congressional Gold Medal to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in recognition of her courageous commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and democracy in Burma.

Mr. Speaker, the images we have seen from Burma over the past year have been nothing short of horrifying. Soldiers firing automatic weapons into unarmed crowds and the charred body of a Buddhist monk, slain, lying face down in a pool of water stained with blood, are just two examples of the oppression that continues to plague Burma.

In the face of this horror, a hero has emerged. For close to 20 years, Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi has continued to fight for freedom and equality in Burma in the face of tremendous adversity. She has been arrested on numerous occasions, held under house arrest, and even had an attempt made on her life. In spite of this, Suu Kyi continues to speak out and to urge democracies throughout the world to come to Burma's aid. Her message is a simple one: "Use your liberty to promote ours."

Today, as we award the Congressional Gold Medal to Suu Kyi, we stand with her to demand democratic change in Burma.

I believe that while change will not come overnight to Burma, it will come. And when it does, it will be my great pleasure to join my colleagues in welcoming Aung San Suu Kyi to Washington so that we can thank her in person for her historic and courageous stand for liberty.

PAUL E. GILLMOR POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and former colleague, Congressman Paul Gillmor, by supporting the designation of the U.S. Postal Service Office located at 175 South Monroe Street in Tiffin, Ohio, as the "Paul E. Gillmor Post Office Building".

While we all miss our friend, this designation will serve to honor him for his distinguished career in public service in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate, and for living his life as a true gentleman.

The reference to being a "true gentleman" is something that will have a special meaning to members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, and it's something that I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as a tribute to Paul Gillmor.

Paul and I were both members of the SAE's during our time at Ohio Wesleyan University, and our fraternity has a motto that describes

what it takes to be a true gentleman. I think this passage by John Walter Wayland describes Paul Gillmor and how he lived his life. It reads as follows:

"The True Gentleman is the man whose conduct proceeds from good will and an acute sense of propriety, and whose self-control is equal to all emergencies; who does not make the poor man conscious of his poverty, the obscure man of his obscurity, or any man of his inferiority or deformity; who is himself humbled if necessity compels him to humble another; who does not flatter wealth, cringe before power, or boast of his own possessions or achievements; who speaks with frankness but always with sincerity and sympathy; whose deed follows his word; who thinks of the rights and feelings of others, rather than his own; and who appears well in any company, a man with whom honor is sacred and virtue safe."

Mr. Speaker, I think that my colleagues would agree that Paul Gillmor lived the life of a true gentleman as a father, a husband, a friend and a public servant.

With that said, I appreciate today's effort to move this well-deserved legislation forward, and I urge everyone to honor and remember our friend and colleague, Paul Gillmor.

COMMENDING THE STATEMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE AT THE U.N. CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN BALI

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, at a watershed moment in global diplomacy last week, our distinguished former Vice President, Al Gore, stepped in to fill an enormous U.S. vacuum in leadership. At the world summit on global warming in Bali, Indonesia, this new Nobel laureate once again took on the necessary role of the nation's conscience in the effort to save our planet from a looming climate catastrophe. With a candid and clear-eyed address, Vice President Gore provided a powerful bridge of hope to world leaders who were struggling to make real progress in setting a roadmap toward a treaty designed to stave off the most devastating impacts of global warming.

In his speech, Vice President Gore courageously confronted the "inconvenient truth" that right now, at this moment in history; the principal obstruction to progress in the global effort to confront the Earth's greatest existential threat is the United States of America. He urged the assembled delegates in Bali to overcome their anger and frustration at this obstacle, vowing that "over the next two years, the United States is going to be in a place it is not now." The Vice President also offered a solution, suggesting that rather than trying to move the Bush Administration, the climate summit simply should circumvent it by leaving "a large open space" in the document to be filled in when U.S. leadership is finally restored.

Inspired by the Vice President's address, the U.N. delegates finally and resolutely rebuffed the administration's effort to block consensus on a "Bali Roadmap" by reaching a consensus that commits all nations to negotiate a new, scientifically valid deal to fighting

global warming by 2009. The resolve to face down the White House was best perhaps best articulated by the delegate from Papua New Guinea—who, addressing the U.S. delegation in the final diplomatic showdown, declared, "If you cannot lead, leave it to the rest of us. Please get out of the way."

Madam Speaker, our distinguished former congressional colleague, Al Gore, has provided our Nation and our global community with great leadership. At a time when our own Administration has let us down, Vice President Gore has reminded the world that, in his words, "political will is a renewable resource."

I commend the text of the Vice President's historic address to my colleagues. To date, this landmark in the global climate discussion has not been published in its entirety anywhere, but I am honored now to place a verbatim transcript of it in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Al Gore's words should inspire all of us to work to fill in the "large open space" that our current administration has left in the place where U.S. leadership normally resides.

SPEECH AT THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE, BALI, INDONESIA, DECEMBER 13, 2007

(By Al Gore)

I am not an official of the United States, and I am not bound by the diplomatic niceties. So, I am going to speak an inconvenient truth. My own country, the United States, is principally responsible for obstructing progress here in Bali. We all know that.

We all know that. But, my country is not the only one that can take steps to ensure that we move forward from Bali with progress, and with hope. Those of you who applauded when I spoke openly about the diplomatic truth here have a choice to make. You can do one of two things here. You can feel anger and frustration and direct it at the United States of America, or you can make a second choice. You can decide to move forward and do all of the difficult work that needs to be done and save a large open blank space in your document and put a footnote by it. And when you look at the footnote, write the description of the footnote. This document is incomplete, but we are going to move forward anyway on the hope—and I am going to describe for you why I think you can also have the realistic expectation—that that blank will be filled in.

This is the beginning of a process designed to culminate in Copenhagen two years from now. Over the next two years, the United States is going to be somewhere it is not now. You must anticipate that. Targets must be a part of the treaty that is adopted in Copenhagen. And the treaty, by the way, should not only be adopted in 2009: I urge you in this mandate to move the target for full implementation of this treaty to a point two years sooner than presently contemplated. Let's have it take effect fully in 2010, and not 2012. We can't afford to wait another five years in order to replace the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol.

So we must leave here with a strong mandate. This is not the time for business as usual. Somehow we have to summon, and each of you must summon a sense of urgency here in Bali. These are not political problems, they are moral imperatives. But our capacity to strip away the disguise and see them for what they really are and then find the basis to act together to successfully address them is what is missing.

The greatest opportunity inherent in this climate crisis is not only to quickly deploy the new technologies that will facilitate sustainable development, to create the new jobs